

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 4:30pm
Via Zoom

Present: Christian Thornton, David Faber, Madeline Fisher, Nic Turner, Ryan Smith
Shellfish Dept. Rob Morrison, Warren Gaines
Others: Juliet Mulinare (Recorder)

The meeting of the Edgartown Shellfish Committee was called to order at 4:30pm.

SHELLFISH PERMITS & AQUACULTURE LICENSES

None.

MINUTES

Nic made a motion to approve the 11/16/21, 12/7/21, 12/21/21, 1/4/22 & 8/16/22 draft minutes as presented. Madeline seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and approved 5-0 with abstentions as needed.

CONSTABLE'S AND DEPUTIES' REPORT

Warren reported that the upwellers are still working great; they are working mostly with scallops and have received four different sets of scallops from the MV Shellfish Group. So far, ~410,000 have been seeded in Cape Pogue with another 410,000+ more to seed. There are 25 cages in Sengecontacket that are growing larger and the scallop upweller in Katama Bay is also thriving.

Rob informed the Committee that a shellfish survey for the proposed dredging in Katama Bay was completed last week by the Woods Hole Group. They completed the survey in two days, which showed low populations of shellfish in the proposed dredging channels.

Rob stated that he is still working on updating the Edgartown Great Pond and Sluiceway Management Plan, which he will bring to a future meeting for the Committee to review.

Rob told the Committee that Chuck Fisher, the newly hired Deputy, will be starting on a part-time basis as he transitions out of his employment with Oak Bluffs. Once he has worked out what he needs to, he will transition to full-time.

Rob thanked the summertime deputies.

SET DATES FOR SCALLOP SEASON

Rob proposed the following dates for the family and commercial scallop season: Dip-netting allowed in all areas from Oct 1 – Oct 31 (October 1st is a Saturday). Family dragging allowed from Oct 28 – Oct 30. Commercial season to open Monday, Oct 31 with the standard limits: 3 baskets Monday – Friday, with Saturday allowed as an alternate date)

Motion placed on the floor by Nic to accept the above dates and make a recommendation to the Selectboard for the 2022-2023 scallop season. Madeline seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and passed, 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

The Committee discussed how often to meet moving forward. Rob suggested meeting twice a month to accommodate commercial license applications during the fall. If things slow down in the winter, the Committee can scale back to one meeting a month. The Committee agreed.

At 4:45pm, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. No discussion, unanimously approved, 5-0.

The next meeting will be held on September 20, 2022.
Minutes submitted by Juliet Mulinare.